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NEWS

For immediate release

Ouachita to host ninth annual Conference on Issues in Christian Counseling

February 21, 2019

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at newsbureau@obu.edu or (870) 245-5208

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. – Ouachita Baptist University's Pruet School of Christian Studies will host the ninth annual Conference on Issues in Christian Counseling on Friday, Feb. 22, in Walker Conference Center on Ouachita's campus. The conference, which will focus on "Family Issues," is open to mental health professionals, social workers, pastors, spouses of participants and current full-time students.

"Just a casual glance at statistics shows that families are encountering growing problems today," said Dr. Bill Viser, professor of Christian ministries at Ouachita and conference organizer. "We feel this conference on family issues will definitely help the professionals address these issues in a significant way for the families they see."

In years' past, the conference has given attention to issues in marriage, adolescent issues, alcohol and drug abuse, depression and anxiety, to name a few, with the purpose of equipping mental health professionals and ministers as they encounter those issues.

"With our guest speakers as outstanding experts in their fields, the topics they present are always cutting edge, extremely relevant and significant for mental health therapists and pastors alike," Viser said.

Two tracks are available for participants – a counseling track and pastoral track. The 2019 conference is co-sponsored by Ouachita and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, with the pastoral track sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Breakout sessions specific to the counseling track include: "The Impact of Society on the Family," "Ethical Decision-Making and Emotions," "Stronger Together: Trauma Recover in Family Context," "Truth, Honesty and Openness: The Psychology of Will Shuts Applied to Family Therapy," "Building Healthy Christian Marriages and Families," "Blending Families: Obstacles and Opportunities," "Suffer the Children: Helping Children and Families Navigate Crisis and Trauma," "Working with Families of Individuals Diagnosed with Serious Mental Illness: A Systems Approach" and "Turning 'The Talk' Into a Conversation."

Breakout sessions specific to the pastoral track include: "The Family and Technology," "Counseling Children and Families in Crisis," "Helping Families Build Trust," "The Healthy Family" and "Q&A on Topics and Issues Related to Pastoral Counseling."

Dr. Viser will lead a session on "So You've Been Subpoenaed to Court: What to Know About Being an Expert Witness" during the lunch hour. Speakers for the counseling track include Craig Garrett, Larry Henderson, Ian Jones, Elizabeth Kelly, Michael Kelly, Jeff Nave, Aaron New, Gerald Nissley and Kathy Steele. Speakers for the pastoral track include James Barham, Hunter Bramlitt, Derek Brown, Garrick Conner, Aamie Mason, Aaron New and Ryan Ropp.

Participants who turn in evaluations will receive a certificate designating the Continuing Education clock hours earned (eight hours if all approved sessions are attended). Credit has been approved for: Licensed Alcohol and Abuse Counselors, Licensed Professional Counselors, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, National Career Counselors (NBCC), Nursing Professionals and Social Work Professionals.

The Approved Continuing Education Provider solely is responsible for this program, including the awarding of the NBCC credit.

More information and registration can be found online at www.obu.edu/christianstudies/counselingconference/. Cost includes up to eight NBCC clock hours (if approved by "Counseling Track" sessions attended), Certificate of Attendance, handouts for sessions attended, lunch and morning and afternoon snacks.

For more information, contact Mary Farley, administrative assistant in the Pruet School, at (870) 245-5599 or farleym@obu.edu.